

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES -May 15, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Heinrich, Higgins, Klimko, Noone, Norris, Thompson, Valle.

Also, Present: Matthew Hall, Manager  
Laurie A. Barton Borough Clerk  
Leslie Parikh, Attorney

Mayor Higgins led everyone in the flag salute.

Mayor Higgins read the following Statement into the Record:

“The requirements of the ‘Open Public Meetings Law, 1975, Chapter 231’ have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Star Gazette and posted on the Bulletin Board of Borough Hall stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion made by Klimko and seconded by Valle to approve the Washington PTO Raffle licenses, motion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

Mayor Higgins administered the Oath of Office to Derek Martino, as Fire Lieutenant.

Mayor Higgins presented the following Proclamation honoring the years of service as named:

**PROCLAMATION  
HONORING THE NEARLY ONE HUNDRED SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE OF STEVEN  
ALPAUGH, RUDOLPH BESCHERER, CHARLES WEBER, JOSHUA DEVOE  
AND JOSEPH FOX, SR. TO THE WASHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington to honor the service of long serving members of the Washington Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, there are five members of the Washington Fire Department having given more than twenty years of service to the department as well as the Borough of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, the combined service of the aforesaid members totals one hundred and fifty-seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, Steven Alpaugh joined the Washington Fire Department in 1977, served as Chief from 1994 to 1995 and again from 2002-2003, currently serves as the Warren County Fire Coordinator, and continues to take an active role in training new firefighters; and

**WHEREAS**, Rudolph Bescherer joined the Washington Fire Department in 1978 and leads the department in calls, having responded to over 1,200 since 2014, and currently oversees the junior firefighter program of the Washington Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles Weber joined the Washington Fire Department in 1990, holding multiple positions with the department including Line Officer and Trustee, and serving on multiple truck committees, and currently oversees the driver training program; and

**WHEREAS**, Joshua DeVoe joined the Washington Fire Department in 1993, holding multiple Line Officer positions including Lieutenant, Captain, and Assistant Chief, and currently remains active in training new firefighters; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph Fox, Sr. joined the Washington Fire Department in 1991, has held multiple Line Officer positions as well as Desk Officer positions, and served as Chief from 2004 to 2005 and currently serves as the Director of the Warren County Fire Academy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council see it fit to honor these men as members of the Washington Fire Department and as proud sons of the Borough of Washington, exemplifying the values that make Washington strong;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by I, David Higgins, Mayor of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the heartfelt appreciation of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington and all its residents are hereby expressed for the public service and leadership performed by Steven Alpaugh, Rudolph Bescherer, Charles Weber, Joshua DeVoe, and Joseph Fox, Sr.

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that this Proclamation be duly embossed, signed by the Mayor, publicly presented to Steven Alpaugh, Rudolph Bescherer, Charles Weber, Joshua DeVoe, and Joseph Fox, Sr. on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and forever recorded in the official records of the Borough of Washington, as an everlasting tribute to these firemen by an appreciative and thankful community.

### **COUNCIL APPEARANCE**

Hearing no public comment, motion made by Noone and seconded by Klimko to close the audience portion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

### **DISCUSSION-Sidewalk-Chapter 75**

Manager Hall reviewed and pointed out specifics of Chapter 75 in regards to the responsibility of the homeowners being responsible for maintenance of the sidewalks.

Discussions of the responsibility of curbing ensued.

Mayor Higgins concluded the discussion and added that the ordinance will be forwarded to the Streets Committee and to schedule a meeting to discuss recommendations. A meeting was set for May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 PM.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Motion made by Heinrich to receive and file the following correspondences, motion seconded by Noone, all were in favor:

1. New Jersey DOT-2018 Municipal Aid Program-Broad Street Project
2. New Jersey DOT-School Safety Improvements Project
3. Statewide-Opposition to Senate Bill 1597
4. Highlands-Open Space Funding Program
5. Washington Celebrates America-Schedule of Events-Parade and Fireworks
6. Chief Cicerelle-Crossing Guard Commended

Motion made by Heinrich and seconded by Klimko to approve the Firemen's application of Sean Smith.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1 (Thompson)  
Motion Carried.

A motion made by Noone and seconded by Klimko to pass a resolution of support to Senate Bill 1597. Motion was tabled for Attorney review.

Discussions of the bulk stickers and extending the time for when residents can put their items out ensued.

### **VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS**

Motion made by Heinrich seconded by Noone to pay the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$1,513,598.17 from the current fund and \$ 19,136.09 from sewer.

ROLL CALL: Heinrich, Higgins, Klimko, Noone, Norris, Thompson and Valle.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Abstention: Thompson abstains from any  
Fire and EMS bills.

Motion Carried.

**COUNCIL REMARKS**

Councilwoman Klimko asked if there was any update on Prospect Street.

Councilman Thompson thanked the Fire Company members for their years of service and the DPW for being out in the storm cleaning things up.

Mayor Higgins thanked the Fire Company for their service and years of service.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Noone seconded by Thompson to approve a Resolution Authorizing Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, contract negotiations, and a personnel matter at 8:10 PM with a five-minute break.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTION**  
**AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act; *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, declares it to be the public policy of the State to insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognizes exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic(s) as permitted by *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*:

\_\_\_\_\_A matter which Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court requires be kept confidential or excluded from discussion in public

(Provision relied upon: \_\_\_\_\_);

\_\_\_\_\_A matter where the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

\_\_\_\_\_A matter whose disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

\_\_\_\_\_ A collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions thereof (Specify contract: \_\_\_\_\_);

\_\_\_\_\_ A matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed; Real Estate Acquisitions

\_\_\_\_\_ Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

\_\_\_\_\_ Investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party; (The general nature of the litigation or contract negotiations is: \_\_\_\_\_ The public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position in the litigation or negotiation; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his or her ethical duties as a lawyer; (The general nature of the matter is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ the public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position with respect to the matter being discussed; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.);

Matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective or current public officer or employee of the public body, where all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected have not requested in writing that the matter(s) be discussed at a public meeting; (The employee(s) and/or general nature of discussion is: \_\_\_\_\_ the public disclosure of such information at this time would violate the employee(s) privacy rights; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the threat to privacy rights no longer exists.;

\_\_\_\_\_ Deliberation occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty or loss of a license or permit;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council hereby declare that their discussion of the subject(s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Borough Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Borough or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

A motion was made by Heinrich seconded by Valle to come out of Executive Session at 9:45 pm.

Ayes: 7; Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

Mayor Higgins added before adjournment that he received a correspondence regarding Relay for Life and the Council forming a team. Attorney Parikh stated she will look into this regarding donations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Noone seconded by Heinrich to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 pm.

Ayes: 7; Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

---

Mayor David Higgins

---

Laurie A. Barton, Borough Clerk